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**Amendment No. 11 to SB0611**

**McNally**  
**Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 611\***

**House Bill No. 653**

by deleting the undesignated section added by SA1546 (Amendment No. 10) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9\_\_.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Tennessee Rural Health Act of 2008”.

(b) To be eligible for a Tennessee rural health scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Be classified as an in-state student under the rules of the Tennessee board of regents or the University of Tennessee system on the date of application for the scholarship and on the date of reapplication for the scholarship each academic year;

(3) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution that:

(A) Has a school of medicine providing a program of study accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, or its successor, as a full-time student seeking the degree doctor of medicine (M.D.);

(B) Has a school of medicine providing a program of study accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the

American Osteopathy Association, or its successor, as a full-time student seeking the degree doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.);

(C) Offers a physician assistant program that is accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, or its successor, as a full-time student seeking to become a physician assistant;

(D) Offers a nurse practitioner program that is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc., or its successor, or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, or its successor, as a full-time student seeking to become a nurse practitioner; or

(E) Has a school of dentistry providing a program of study accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its successor, as a full-time student seeking the degree doctor of dental surgery (D.D.S.) or the degree doctor of dental medicine (D.M.D.).

(4) Maintain satisfactory progress in the program of study in which the student is enrolled;

(5)

(A) Agree to practice medicine in a health resource shortage area after becoming a Tennessee licensed physician, osteopathic physician, or physician assistant or receiving a Tennessee certificate of fitness as a nurse practitioner one (1) year for each year of funding provided by a Tennessee rural health scholarship; or

(B) Agree to practice dentistry in a health resource shortage area after becoming a Tennessee licensed dentist one

(1) year for each year of funding provided by a Tennessee rural health scholarship.

(6) Not accept any other financial assistance that carries with it a service obligation after graduation and receipt of the applicable license to practice medicine or dentistry, except for a service obligation in the United States armed forces reserve or the national guard; and

(7) Sign a promissory note each year the scholarship is awarded that stipulates the cash repayment obligation incurred if the medical or dental service is not fulfilled. If a scholarship recipient obligates to a service commitment under another loan-scholarship program other than a service commitment permitted under subdivision (6), fails to complete the medical or dental program the recipient enrolled in, or fails to practice medicine or dentistry in a health resource shortage area for the number of years required to fulfill the recipient's obligation pursuant to the award of a Tennessee rural health scholarship, then all funds obtained from the award of the scholarship shall be repaid with interest; provided, however, that no repayment shall be due, if TSAC finds that it is impossible for the recipient to fulfill the service obligation because of death or permanent disability of the recipient.

(c) A scholarship recipient shall not be required to fulfill the service requirement of subdivision (b)(5) or make any repayment of scholarship funds during any period of training required for licensure, including, but not limited to internship or residency, or during active duty service in the United States armed forces or mobilization as a member of the reserve components, but such period shall not exceed six (6) years.

(d)

(1) A Tennessee rural health scholarship awarded to a student attending an eligible public postsecondary institution shall be the amount

of in-state tuition and fees for the program in which the student is enrolled.

(2) A Tennessee rural health scholarship awarded to a student attending an eligible independent postsecondary institution shall be:

(A) If an eligible public postsecondary institution offers a program comparable to that in which the student is enrolled, the average amount of in-state tuition and fees for such programs at all eligible public postsecondary institutions offering comparable programs; or

(B) If no eligible public postsecondary institution offers a program comparable to that in which the student is enrolled, the average amount of tuition and fees for such programs at all eligible independent postsecondary institutions offering comparable programs.

(3) No partial scholarship shall be awarded under this section.

(e) As used in this section, "health resource shortage area" means an area determined as a health resource shortage area by the department of health, office of rural health.

(f) The Tennessee student assistance corporation, in consultation with the department of health, Tennessee board of medical examiners, the board of osteopathic examination, the committee on physician assistants, the board of nursing, and the board of dentistry, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the management and administration of the program, including the execution of appropriate contracts and promissory notes, the terms of promissory notes, cancellation of the notes and deferment of repayment and, should a scholarship recipient be required to repay a promissory note, the rate of interest and terms of repayment. The Tennessee student assistance corporation is also authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the amount and payment of

awards for the Tennessee rural health scholarship; provided, however, that no more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) may be distributed to students beginning their programs of study in the 2009-2010 academic year and each academic year thereafter, with the total amount of net lottery proceeds distributed for the program limited to no more than one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in the fourth year of the program's operation and thereafter. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

(g) No retroactive award of a Tennessee rural health scholarship shall be made under this section.

(h) Scholarships awarded under this section shall commence with the 2009-2010 academic year.